

NEW YORK HERALD.

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.All business or news letters and telegraphic
despatches must be addressed New York
Herald.Letters and packages should be properly
sealed.Rejected communications will not be re-
turned.Volume XXXIII. No. 8
AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.NEW YORK THEATRE, opposite New York Hotel—
UNDER THE CARPET.ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street—BORNHAYM
GIRL.OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway—A MISERABLE
NIGHT'S DREAM.WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street—
OLIVER TWIST.THEATRE FRANCAIS, Fourteenth street—MARI
ANTOINETTE.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—MART STUART.

HOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—CLAUDE DUVAL—JERRY
LIND.BARNARD'S OPERA HOUSE AND MUSEUM, Broad-
way and Thirtieth street—OUR MUTUAL FRIENDS. MATINEE.NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street—GYMNASTIC
EXERCISES, &c. MATINEE AT 2 P.M.THEATRE COMIQUE, 54 Broadway—HILTON COME-
DION THEATRE. MATINEE AT 2 P.M.KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 730 Broadway—SONGS,
DANCES, ECCESTROTICITIES, BURLESQUES, &c.SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 58 Broadway—FRIED-
MAN ENTERTAINMENTS, SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUES.TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 21 Bowery—COMIC
VOCALISM, NEGRO MINSTRELS, &c. MATINEE AT 2 P.M.BUTLER'S AMERICAN THEATRE, 47 Broadway—
BAILLIE, FARRAR, PANTOMIME, &c.BUNYAN HALL, Broadway and Fifteenth street—THE
FUGITIVE.

STEINWAY HALL—GRAND CONCERT.

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn—ENTHUSIASM
MINSTRELS, BARNARD AND BURLESQUES.NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway—
SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Wednesday, January 8, 1868.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

The news report by the Atlantic cable is dated yester-
day, January 7.England protests against the intrigues of Russia in
Roumania.The new gold fields discovered near the Amor river
are extensive and of great yield. Russian troops guard
the mines.Consols, 92 for money in London. Five-twentieths, 71½.
72 in London and 76½ in Frankfurt.Cotton easier in Liverpool. Breadstuffs easier, and
provisions without marked change.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday Mr. Wilson, of Mass., intro-
duced a bill to remedy the Governor and other State
officers of Georgia and empowering the Reconstruction
Convention to fill the vacancies. Mr. Sumner's bill,
which was passed before the recess, but has not been
referred by the President, for securing equal rights in
the District was referred to the Judiciary Committee,
on a question whether it had fallen through or become
a law by the failure to return it on the part of the
President. The bill to repeal the internal revenue tax
on cotton was taken up and passed, with an amendment
providing for the resumption of the tax after 1869. A
synopsis of the report of Senator Howard on the re-
moval of Secretary Stanton, which was completed on
Monday night, will be found elsewhere in our columns
this morning.In the House a joint resolution authorizing the sale of
all the iron-clad vessels no longer required by the ser-
vice caused considerable discussion, and was finally
passed. A bill to prevent frauds in the collection of
taxes on distilled whiskey was reported from the Com-
mittee on Ways and Means and passed. The report of
Commissioner Wells, of the Internal Revenue Bureau,
was presented and referred. It will be found elsewhere
in our columns this morning. In Committee of the
Whole Mr. Fay, a Republican of Ohio, made a lengthy
speech in favor of having the national debt in legal
tender.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The two houses of the General Assembly of the State
of New York were called to order at eleven o'clock yester-
day morning.In the Senate the incumbent subordinate officers were
re-elected. After the appointment of the usual com-
mittees to wait upon the Governor and the Assembly
and the reading of the Governor's message, the Presi-
dent of the Senate, Lieutenant Governor Woodford, de-
livered a welcoming address. Notices were given of
a bill to repeal the Metropolitan Excise law, to create a
Harbor district and Board of Wharves and Piers in New
York, and relative to the powers and duties of the Re-
corder and City Judge of New York.In the Assembly William Hittman, democrat, of
New York, was elected Speaker by eighteen majority
over the republican candidate. The newly elected
Speaker delivered an address on taking the chair,
thanking the Assembly for the honor. The democratic
candidates for the subordinate offices were also elected.
The usual committees to wait upon the Governor and
Senate were appointed, and a recess was taken for the
purpose of drawing for seats.The Governor's message will be found in full in the
columns of the Herald this morning.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Our special telegraphic advices from St. Domingo
state that the government had fled to Turks Island, and
Fuenavertura. Baze had been proclaimed President.
Cabra was expected to abdicate.Our special telegram from St. Thomas state that the
United States Commissioner to take charge of the island
was anxiously expected, the people expressing their
willingness to be governed.The January statement of the public debt shows the
total debt to be \$2,042,555,255, while the cash in the
Treasury is \$134,203,693. This indicates a decrease in
the debt during the past year of \$3,109,522. But during
the month of December an increase in indicated of
\$2,940,681 in the total debt, while the cash in the
Treasury is decreased by \$3,976,217, thus showing an
actual increase of \$6,916,898 in the debt during the
month.The contest for the United States Senatorship in Ohio
to succeed Hon. Wade, is waged in the state Democratic
Convention between Thurman and Vallandigham. They
are both confident of success, but Thurman is un-
doubtedly ahead.In the Louisiana Convention yesterday a financial
plan was proposed making the warrants of the Conven-
tion the only one receivable in payment of taxes, but it
was defeated. One member of the Convention expressed
an opinion as an individual that the reconstruction laws
were unconstitutional.Odin Bowie, the Governor elect of Maryland, will be
inaugurated at Annapolis to-day.An old citizen of Pepperell, Mass., was killed yester-
day while riding in a sleigh with two ladies by colliding
with a locomotive. The ladies were only slightly in-
jured.Farrell Hall and the Young Men's Christian Associa-
tion building, in Chicago, was burned yesterday morn-
ing, involving a loss of \$300,000. The hall had given
a splendid performance the night before.A great many negro huts, built out of the way
(choleste as far from civilization and the main thorough-
fare as possible), are noticeable now in Virginia.Frank J. McElroy, a bookkeeper, killed himself in
a room in Syracuse yesterday by shooting himself
through the head in a fit of mental depression.Mr. James W. Gerard delivered an interesting and
instructive lecture on "Earthquakes and Volcanoes" last
evening at the old Trinity Chapel, before a large and
appreciative audience.The Liquor Dealers' Association of this city held their
regular annual meeting last evening and elected officers
for the ensuing year. The action of the Board of
Commissioners in passing a new Excise ordinance was
favorably discussed.Yesterday Garret G. Baker was examined before
Commissioner Osborn on a charge of having, while acting
in the capacity of paying teller in the Tradesmen's
National Bank of this city, embezzled \$10,000, the
property of that establishment. The testimony of Mr.
Berry, President of the bank, having been taken, the
examination was adjourned to a future day.A case came before the Supreme Court Chambers yester-
day in which Gassaway B. Lamar sued Charles A.
Dana, late Assistant Secretary of War, claiming \$100,000
damages for alleged illegal and false arrest and im-
prisonment during the war. The matter came up on a
motion for the removal of the cause for trial to the
United States Circuit Court. The court reserved its
decision.The case of Cornell vs. Cornell, an action for divorce
on the ground of alleged adultery of the wife, came be-
fore Judge Cardozo, at Supreme Court Chambers, on a
motion to open a default taken by plaintiff. The irregu-
larities complained of were of the most flagrant nature,
and the decision of the court left the plaintiff in the un-
comfortable predicament of having two wives, he having
married another woman since the judgment by default
was taken.The stock market was strong and active yesterday.
Government securities were active and buoyant, espe-
cially five-twentieths of 1862 and the old issue of 1863.
Gold closed at 136½ a 136¾.The advance in gold rendered the market firmer as
a general thing, and in many articles a fair business was
transacted. Cotton opened 5c lower, but closed active,
with the decline recovered. Coffee was steady. On
Change flour, wheat, corn and oats were buoyant
and firm, with a fair demand. Pork was un-
changed. Beef was in fair demand and steady.
Lard was active and firmly held. Freights were firm,
but less active. Naval stores and petroleum were
moderately active and a shade better. Wool was steady,
but sparingly dealt in. The number of beef cattle re-
ceived yesterday was 1,026 head—505 at Communipaw
and 521 at Hudson City. Prices were unchanged, com-
mon to extra lard selling at from 14c to 20c per lb.
Demand fair. Swine were fully 5c per lb. higher, and
very scarce. One lot heavy prime sold at 8c.

The Governor's Message.

We publish to-day the Message of Governor
Fenton to the State Legislature. It is a
lengthy, elaborate and not altogether uninter-
esting document. As far as it relates to the
financial and other interests of the State of
New York it may be read with some satisfac-
tion. When it travels beyond that into the
regions of general politics it becomes rapid
and worthless.The Governor impresses upon us the neces-
sity, as a point of honor, of paying our share
of the public debt incurred by the war, as if
any one hesitated to relieve himself of this
obligation; and upon this point he is exceed-
ingly prolix. And in this connection he reminds
us—to our sorrow—that there are sixteen hun-
dred national banks in existence, with a capital
of four hundred and nineteen millions of dol-
lars and five hundred and sixty millions on
deposit; but he does not recall the fact that
these national banks are dragging vast sums
from the substance of the people—that they
are enriching a few corporations at the expense
of the general public.After dwelling to a great extent upon sub-
jects general to the whole country, the Gov-
ernor invites our attention to the State of New
York. He shows the debt of the State on Sep-
tember 30, 1867, after deducting the balance
of sinking funds unapplied, to be \$44,114,592.
He assures us that, despite the solicitude
concerning the ability of the State to sustain the
burden resting upon it, and the predicted ap-
proach of financial trials, our resources and
material wealth have vastly increased, and
that a thorough revision of the tax and assess-
ment systems will obviate all difficulties. As
a fair measure of the material advance, he says
that "the New York city banks, in November,
1860, as represented by their loans, conducted
a business of \$122,000,000, and at the same date
in 1867 the volume of their loans was nearly
\$248,000,000, or more than double the business
of 1860. Hardly less significant, if not in so
great a ratio, is the advance in most all depart-
ments of business and enterprise, as will be
found by reference to the tables of commerce
and tonnage, railroad and insurance capital,
mercantile, manufacturing and mechanical em-
ployments, and the value of real and personal
estate."Concerning the canal debt, we are told that
upon the average basis of receipts for the last
seven years the whole indebtedness will be
extinguished in 1874. The debt due to the
State for war purposes has been reduced to
\$650,286, and that is to be settled shortly by
the War Department. The National Guard is
represented to be in a flourishing and advanc-
ing condition, including now forty-five thousand
officers and men.The public charities and State prisons re-
ceive a portion of the Governor's attention,
and are treated of somewhat in detail. Re-
lating to quarantine, emigration and the public
health, the reports are satisfactory. In the har-
bor of New York during the past year 212,738
immigrants were landed, realizing a fund to
the Commissioners of Emigration—at the per
capita rate of \$2.50—of the magnificent sum of
over a million dollars for commutation tax alone.The Governor indulges in some vague
theories about special legislation, and alludes
to the fact that a large number of bills
of this character were rushed through during
the last ten days of the late session, four
hundred and ninety-four of which he had not
time to sign before the adjournment. This,
however, is a common custom, but it ought to
be amended; and that we have altogether too
much legislation is undoubtedly true, when
we consider that about eighty per cent of the
bills passed are jobs.

The Report of the Special Commissioner of the Revenue.

The main purposes of this important and
interesting report, which is published in
to-day's HERALD, have been to exhibit the
present state of the national finances, so far as
the debt and annual obligations for expendi-
ture are concerned, and to discuss the condi-
tions under which the revenue required in
order to meet such expenditures may be raised
by taxation with the least detriment to the
productive power and the welfare of the whole
country. The report is based upon the investi-
gations which the Special Commissioner has
made, not only as to the sources of national
revenue, the best methods of collecting re-
venue, the administration of existing revenue
laws, and the relations of foreign trade to
domestic industry, but also as to the revenue
systems and industrial conditions in Great
Britain and some of the leading States of con-
tinental Europe. A visit to Europe and a per-
sonal examination of its various revenue sys-
tems has enabled Mr. Wells to compare the
financial condition and prospects of the United
States with those of other nations. He pre-
sents a picture full of encouragement in re-
spect to our own financial and industrial future.
His conclusions are:—"That the United States
is the only one of the leading nations of the
world which is, at present, materially dimin-
ishing its debt and reducing its taxes; and
the only one, moreover, which offers any sub-
stantial evidence of its ability to pay its debt
within any definite period, or even anticipates
the probability of any such occurrence." Mr.
Wells even feels authorized to say that the
people of the United States have great cause
for congratulation that the wave of commer-
cial depression which, since the termination of
their war, has swept over the commercial
centres of the whole civilized world has
brought so little of disaster to their interests,
inasmuch as there is not to-day a country in
Europe in which the paralysis of industry is
not greater, the failures more numerous and
the prospect of an early return of commercial
prosperity and activity less encouraging than
in the United States.One thing at least, if, as in Mr. Wells'
opinion, no other, may be considered as having
been settled by the financial experience of the
past three years, and this is the marvellous
capacity of the country for revenue, "which
has been proved to be equal under the most
unfavorable conditions, to every requirement
for expenditure and for the extinguishment of
the debt at a rate which finds no precedent in
the history of any other nation." A single
instance cited by Mr. Wells illustrates in a
striking and suggestive manner the productive
power of the country to meet current expendi-
tures and reduce or extinguish debt. We refer
to the fact that the estimated present average
annual value of the apples alone sent to mar-
ket from eight of the sixty counties of the
State of New York—viz., four and a half to
five millions of dollars—is sufficient to pay the
interest on the entire State debt and add
about two millions annually to the sinking
fund; so that if all other forms of industry or
production in the State of New York should
cease to contribute to the State debt, but the
apple trees in those eight counties should con-
tinue to grow and produce, their annual pro-
duct, if devoted to this purpose through the
patriotism of their owners, would in less than
ten years extinguish the whole debt, including
the present unliquidated cost (fifteen millions)
of the Erie canal. This single instance may
serve to suggest the incalculable material
strength and development of the whole nation,
and to silence all who are disposed to croak
about its inability either to carry or to exting-
uish the national debt. The figures speak
eloquently on this point in the review by Mr.
Wells of the present condition of the capital
and industry of the country, and of their
ability to sustain the necessary
burden of taxation. The Commissioner shows
with what wonderful rapidity the country, as a
whole, is recovering from the effects of the
war; and resuming its normal condition of
development and progress. Immigration,
which makes a positive yearly addition to the
wealth and producing capacity of the country
of not less than one hundred and fifty millions
of dollars; a continued increase in the inven-
tion of machinery and the perfecting of processes
for improving and cheapening products; an in-
crease in the quantity and value of the
national agricultural products—the aggregate
crops of all kinds for the year 1867, although
less in some respects than what was antici-
pated, having exceeded, both in quantity and
value, those of any previous year; an increase
in the capital invested, and in the number and
capacity of establishments for manufacturing
purposes; the increase in the production of
pig iron, of anthracite coal, of petroleum; the
increase of tonnage on the northern lakes and
other inland waters; the increase in the earn-
ings of the leading railroads; the increase in
the aggregate business of the country, and
particularly that of the principal cities; the
increase in the number of houses erected dur-
ing the past year, estimated to be greater than
in any former year of our national existence;
in fine, all our multiplying sources of in-
creased prosperity are indicated by the Com-
missioner as full of promise for the future.Mr. Wells, suggesting an estimate of our
national annual expenditure at one hundred
and forty millions for ordinary expenses, one
hundred and thirty millions for interest and
fifty millions for the reduction of the principal
of the debt, intimates his belief that it would
be easy for the whole country, with its labor
and capital restored to productive employ-
ment, to meet this annual expenditure by
means of a per capita taxation of eight dollars
and seventy cents, which, moreover, con-
tinued at the same rate, would extinguish the
principal of the debt in less than twenty years.The Commissioner refers in detail to distilled
spirits, fermented liquors, tobacco and its
manufactures, income, stamps, legacies and suc-
cessions, banks, railroads, salaries and the
other internal revenue sources, as yielding
one hundred and fifty-two million dollars,
which leaves a deficiency of eighteen millions
necessary to make up the sum of one hundred
and seventy millions that was, according to
previous estimates, to be provided for from in-
ternal revenue sources. To meet this de-
ficiency he so-called "special" or "license"
taxes and the taxes on sales may be relied on.The recommendations of the Commissioner
for reform in the revenue administration, and
particularly his six recommendations relative
to the retrenchment of expenditures, which he
deems absolutely indispensable in the various
spheres of the public service, are highly ju-

dications and merit the serious consideration of Congress. Even the greatest monomaniacs among the radicals in Congress might well be diverted from their pet hobbies by the facts set forth in the report of the Special Commissioner of the Revenue, and be induced to devote a little time to the financial and industrial interests of the country.

Senator Howard's Report on the Suspension of Secretary Stanton.

We publish this morning the material points of Senator Howard's report on the reasons submitted to the Senate by President Johnson for his suspension of Mr. E. M. Stanton as Secretary of War. Mr. Howard fully justifies the refusal of Mr. Stanton to resign at the President's request, on the ground of "grave public considerations," and charges the suspension to a factious spirit of hostility to the Reconstruction laws of Congress on the part of the President. Mr. Johnson is further accused of garbling a certain telegraphic despatch of General Baird touching the New Orleans riot, and of suppressing certain important facts in reference to said riot; and his complaint upon this score against the Secretary of War, Mr. Howard says, "has not even the merit of plausibility." Instead of needing the information of General Baird's despatch Mr. Johnson, it is further charged, was "kept fully informed by Rozier, Voorhees, Heron and others (implicated in the riot) of what was going on, and seems to have concealed it designedly from the Secretary."

In conclusion, the committee recommend the passage of a resolution, and that it be certified to the President, to wit:—"That having considered the evidence and reasons given by the President in his Message of the 16th of December, 1867, for the suspension of Edwin M. Stanton from the office of Secretary of War, the Senate do not concur in such suspension."

which brings the issue to a decisive test, one way or the other, on the merits of the Tenure of Office law. Mr. Johnson, in simply as-
sailing Stanton, instead of making a removal, and in giving his reasons to the Senate for the suspension, has complied with the terms of the law relating to the tenure of office. But this law further declares that unless the Senate shall concur in the President's reasons for any suspension under the law made in the recess of Congress, the officer concerned shall be re-instated in his office; and this is the point to which this resolution of the Senate will bring Mr. Johnson.

Assuming that the resolution will be passed, will Mr. Stanton be reinstated? No, according to our information; for Mr. Johnson will refuse to recognize Mr. Stanton on applying for restoration, and will probably submit his constitutional reasons to the Senate for this course.

What, then? Mr. Stanton must then retire from the field or carry up his case to the Supreme Court for a decision on the constitutionality of the Tenure of Office law—a decision which Mr. Johnson, it is said, desires to obtain. Mr. Stanton, however, may relieve the Senate from the danger of a judgment against the law by declining to press his claim. In either event, we suspect the conclusion will be another victory for Andrew Johnson.

The New Italian Cabinet.

M. Menabrea, as appears from our cable
despatches, has at last been successful in
reorganizing his Cabinet. It is difficult to
determine whether this success is a loss or a
gain to Italy. Immediately it is perhaps an
advantage, but ultimately it may be a mis-
fortune. The most that can be said with
safety is that the choice lay between Menabrea
and Rattazzi, and that Menabrea means peace
and Rattazzi means war. Menabrea is as
anxious that Rome should become the capital
of Italy as Rattazzi is or can be; but the former,
much as he wishes that Italy were one and
indivisible, dreads open collision with France,
and prefers to await the issue of events;
whereas the latter, impatient of all delay and
indignantly opposed to all interference, would
give expression to the popular will fearless of
France or of any other foe. Menabrea in
power means that the Italian government hopes
for the settlement of the Roman question by
moral rather than by material means; Rattazzi
in power means that the Roman question must
be settled, by moral suasion if possible, by
material force if necessary, but by all means
settled. Menabrea in office would by this time
have set Europe ablaze. It is of course a
question to which different minds will return
different answers, which of the two men is
better suited to the occasion. We are willing
to accord to Rattazzi bravery, although we
cannot acquit him of rashness; but Menabrea
we cannot refuse to credit with both wisdom
and caution. Let us hope that Italy may
obtain Rome without further bloodshed.

What Our Amusements Cost.

A single glance at the internal revenue
returns of the metropolitan theatres for the
past year, which we publish in another column
of the HERALD, will show what an important
item of expenditure amusements are, and what
liberal, steady patrons they find among us.
Three million dollars only represent the
amount of money paid for admission to the
theatres, but three times that sum would not
be sufficient to show the other expenses, both
of manager and audience, connected with
amusements. First, the manager has to engage
a large number of employes besides the regu-
lar company, and before a piece of any note
is placed on the stage hundreds of dollars
must be spent for scenery, dresses, music, &c.
In the case of a spectacle and ballet like the
"Black Crook" the expenses are, of course,
doubled. Amusements cost the audience far
more than the mere price of admission. Car-
riage hire, supper, special toilet for the
theatre, and numberless little items of expense
known to theatre-goers may be included in
the bill when a gentleman accompanies a lady
to a place of amusement. The receipts of the
New York theatres for the last year far exceed
those of London or Paris. Twenty-two estab-
lishments in New York and its suburb, Brook-
lyn, return over three million dollars as their
receipts. Niblo's seems to have made, from a
single spectacle, double the amount of money of
any of the other theatres—a striking comment
on the state of the drama at the present day.
Wallack's and the Olympic come next in order
of receipts, and the Circus follows close on
their totals. The fall and winter season,
despite the stagnation of business, exhibits an
increase of patronage in the majority of the
theatres. The returns conclusively show that
houses produced novelties and superior attrac-
tions this season. Some managers have

doubled their former receipts this winter, and others have been financially wrecked beyond the hope of salvation. The present year has opened gloomily, and the financial prospects of the greater number of the theatres for the balance of the season are still more gloomy. Still, the more enterprising of our amusement caterers are preparing choice tidbits for their patrons, regardless of expense, and are resolved to stake all on the issue. What the spring may bring forth in the amusement line remains to be seen.

Senator Sherman's New Coinage Bill.

Mr. Sherman has introduced a bill in the Senate to change the coinage of the United States in some respects and to change the standard of the metals so as to conform to the French standard. It is proposed to make the five dollar piece agree with the twenty-five franc piece of France, and to make other sizes and denominations of our coinage conform in the same proportion to the French standard. The value of the gold coins is to be stamped on them both in dollars and francs, and if England enters into this monetary arrangement the pound sterling is to conform to the five dollar piece, and then that value also would be stamped on the coin. All foreign coins so conforming are to be a legal tender in all payments whatsoever. There are some other provisions in the bill, but these are the chief ones. The object is to bring about a unification of the coinage of the world, or, at least, of that of the principal commercial nations. The bill appears to be based on the recommendations of the monetary conference held at Paris last year, and upon the report of Mr. Ruggles, the United States delegate to that conference.

No doubt such a unification of the metallic currency of the great commercial nations might be convenient in breaking up the business of the small money changers, and might save people from the little shaves to which they are now subjected; but it would have scarcely any or no effect upon great commercial and banking exchanges. We cannot see that this proposed change would be of the least value to us or to any of the other nations when paper is the currency. It may be said that we shall return to specie payments by and by. Perhaps we may; but it is possible we may find a paper currency the best, the most stable and the least likely to be deranged, and that hereafter we may regard gold and silver simply as articles of commerce, the same as cotton, wheat, tin or lead are regarded.

It may not, under any circumstances, be convenient or prudent to return to specie payments for some time. Then the other nations may be plunged into troubles, revolution or war, and have to resort to a paper currency. France for many years during the revolutionary period had nothing but paper money, and specie payments were suspended nearly thirty years in England. May not such times come again? Neither we nor they are sure of maintaining a metallic currency even were it now universally restored. There is no necessity for such a bill and it would be of no earthly value to us. The introduction of it shows a disposition to be tinkering over small, unimportant matters, while the country is groaning under burdens and bad legislation that call for removal.

But why should not this great country have its own independent monetary system? Why should we not adhere to our simple decimal denominations without stamping the French and English money terms upon our coins? Nothing would be better or more simple than our decimal system, and if foreign nations like to conform to it all very well; but we do not want to go out of the way in the matter of forming any European entangling alliances, monetary or otherwise. The time is not far off when, from our mighty growth, enterprise and geographical position, we shall give laws to the rest of the world in monetary, financial and commercial matters. The greenback legal tender is our currency now, and a good one it is. We may find that it, or some other government issue like it, may be the best currency in the future. It may be that we are going to change the ideas of the world in this respect, as we have in other respects. At all events, having a paper currency at the present time, and not knowing when we may have any other, it is a waste of time and altogether out of place to be legislating on a unification of metallic currency for the world.

THE ALBANY LOBBY.—With the democrats in possession of the Assembly and the republicans in occupation of the Senate at Albany there are some innocent people who, perhaps, think that the lobby jobs and jobbers of each will be neutralized by the jobbers and jobs of the other, so that this Legislature will be without much profit to the lobby on either side, and that accordingly the taxpaying people will have occasion to be thankful. We fear, however, that all such estimates of the new Legislature will prove delusive in the course of five or six weeks. The Albany lobby believes that every lawmaker at Albany, republican or democrat, has his price, and if it can be paid and still leave a good margin of profit to the lobby the man is bought. By way of illustration, if there is a greenhorn who supposes that the ascendancy of Tammany in the Assembly kills off the Broadway Surface Railroad job, let him wait a little, till the lobby gets its machinery adjusted, and he will be a wiser man.

THE METROPOLITAN FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The report of Chief Engineer Kingsland, of the Metropolitan Fire Department, which has just been forwarded to Governor Fenton, contains some very interesting information concerning the workings of the Department during the past year and the improvements which he is of the opinion might and ought to be introduced into the organization. During the year ending November 30, according to the report of the engineer, one hundred and thirty fires and alarms, of which ninety-one were incendiary origin. During the same period thirty-six arrests were made of persons suspected of arson, of which number fourteen were discharged by the police magistrates for want of sufficient evidence to convict the accused and the remainder were "variously disposed of." The total loss by fire was \$5,711,000, one-third of which was insured. The Chief Engineer states that the number of fires during the past year as compared with that of previous years has not decreased, but the losses were not so great. The total force of men in the department, including the engineers, is 827. There are now in the use of the Department 20,075 feet of hose, of which 43,075 feet are in good and 27,000 feet in ordinary condition. On an alarm of fire an average of one-fourth of the engine force proceeds to the place indicated, and if the alarm is repeated this number is increased to one-third. The time allowed each company for harnessing the horses and leaving the house is restricted to twenty-five seconds.

The use of second class steamers is strongly recommended on account of the scarcity of the supply of water at the hydrants during the winter months. Four new steamers will be required during the present year. The purchase of 15,000 feet of hose of combination rubber, Gaylord coupling, is urged. It is urged by advocating the purchase of a small propeller for use in cases of fire in the shipping, and the rigid enforcement of the law against the storage of combustible materials within the city limits.

TOURNAMENT OF THE SKATE.

New York and Brooklyn Steel Shed—
The time has arrived in the history of skating when it can be regarded almost as a fine art. The skater's figure and while dexterous curvings that are not combined with grace and rapid movement of the skis, but of general emulation. To note the progress of the accomplishment as a pastime, and its progress from a rude and unpolished custom to an established, pleasant and healthful exercise for the delectation of all classes, is interesting in the extreme and suggestive of reflection.

Where a few years since the members of the gentler sex would rather remain within doors, in the atmosphere of artificially heated apartments, they now don skates, muffs, tippets and boots, and, bidding adieu to old prohibitory laws, enjoy a healthy breath of nature. That American skaters are not taken arid exercise enough is a miserable fact. It has started us in the face by lack of muscle in the men and of bloom in the women—our half-skating like hobnobbing flowers, the other race of unfortunate, overworked bipeds. But this great error has been discovered, and especially in the case of our women, who are now, by the aid of door sports that have in their laudable pursuit the preservation of life, caught the charm of beauty and the fair face of our countrymen, and the market of their lives is a joy, instead of sinking into early valitudinarianism. Among the pastimes the more popular is skating—in fact, the most popular of all. It is a healthy, graceful, buoyant and self-possession it evokes, transcends them all.

You'll find there's a bully skating down here—I'm going to skate down here from the tips of my arctic golden haired boy, dressed in elegant costume and with a pair of skates dangling over his shoulder, seemingly just from a skating rink, and who, yesterday morning, as he ran to one of the prominent skating ponds in the city, and his expression was one of intense enjoyment, he had skated the many thousands of ladies, gentlemen, ladies and ladies as they wandered their way to the scene of sport, the carnival of fun, that was observed throughout the day and evening upon the skating ponds of New York and vicinity, exceeding in brilliancy anything that has been witnessed this season.

The ice that had by nature of the weather for several days been a consistency to preclude the indulgence of the exhilarating pursuit, that makes war on pallor and languor, became by the aid of the sun, the rays of Saturday and Sunday of such character to open again on Monday the carnival skating sports. The carnal, both in New York, Brooklyn and Jersey City, leading to the streets adjacent to the skating ponds, were filled to repletion. Gentlemen left their business to have a few moments' pleasure, while many of the male sex without business followed their example; and ladies with all attendant cavaliers and misses with bean and the same as thus from a skating rink, and who, yesterday morning, as he ran to one of the prominent skating ponds in the city, and his expression was one of intense enjoyment, he had skated the many thousands of ladies, gentlemen, ladies and ladies as they wandered their way to the scene of sport, the carnival of fun, that was observed throughout the day and evening upon the skating ponds of New York and vicinity, exceeding in brilliancy anything that has been witnessed this season.

The character of the ice, with all details of interest relative to the several private and public rinks of the city and suburbs are noted hereinafter.

New York.

The ice at this pond was excellent, and from early morning until late at night the throng was intense. Many ladies, recognized as the most graceful and expert in the art of skating in the city, visited it, among them the Misses Powell, Jackson, Miller, Coughlin and Wilson, between whom and the members of the New York Skating Club there was pleasant rivalry. They executed many difficult and graceful evolutions. At night the throng upon the skating ponds was very numerous, and the pleasant music gave zest to the scene. Gold medals will soon be contested for in the matter of champion skating by ladies here.

THE PARK POND.